

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

2/15/06

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 603 (Jelinek) SB 604 (Jelinek)

These bills would require the Department of Labor and Economic Growth to set up a registration program for auctioneers and auction companies, including administering examinations and enforcement for noncompliance. The bills would create a new Board of Auctioneers and set registration standards for the profession. Senate Bill 604 also would create a fee structure to offset the costs to the Department for performing these new responsibilities. According to the Department, the cost of regulating the estimated 800 applicants/registrants in the first year would be approximately \$169,000, and the revenue that would be generated for the same number under the proposed fee schedule is approximately \$205,000 for that year.

Senate Bill 603 would add Article 28 to the Occupational Code to do the following: Establish registration requirements for auctioneers and related responsibilities of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG). Create a Board of Auctioneers and require the Board and DLEG to develop an examination for registration applicants. Require written contracts between registered auctioneers and their clients. Require a registered auctioneer to deposit all funds related to the conduct of an auction in a custodial account separate from the registrant's own funds. Specify that registrants who committed certain acts would be subject to penalties and sanctions under the Code. Require registered auctioneers to maintain written records of auction sales and on employees for at least three years.

- SB 603 was moved to 3rd Reading [no amendments].
- SB 603 passed with IE [RC 78: 37 yes, 0 no].

Senate Bill 604 would amend the State License Fee Act to establish a \$50 application fee, a \$50 examination fee, and a \$200 annual registration fee for auctioneers.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SB 604 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 604 passed with IE [RC 79: 37 yes, 0 no].

SB 838 (Emerson)

Senate Bill 838 would change the Social Welfare Act to allow for flexibility in Medicaid coverage for 19- and 20-years-old individuals as well as caretaker relatives. This would enable the State to seek and implement a waiver of Federal regulations to limit benefits for these groups. The bill would replace the references to categorical eligibility for these two groups with a statement that eligibility would be subject to Title XIX of the Social Security Act, subject to limitations imposed by the Department Director.

- SB 838 was moved to 3rd Reading [no amendments].
- SB 838 passed with IE [RC 80: 23 yes, 14 no].

SB 839 (Emerson)

Senate Bill 839 would amend the General Sales Tax Act to reduce the amount of revenue from the 4% sales tax that is deposited in the Comprehensive Transportation Fund (CTF). Section 25 of the Act provides for the distribution of sales tax revenue collected at the 4% rate. (The revenue from one-third of the 6% sales tax rate is earmarked to the School Aid Fund).

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SB 839 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 839 passed with IE [RC 81: 26 yes, 11 no].

SB 959 (Switalski)

Senate Bill 959 would amend the State Survey and Remonumentation Act to provide for a one-time transfer of \$15.0 million from the unreserved balance in the State Survey and Remonumentation Fund to the General Fund. The transfer would take place in FY 2005-06.

- Cassis 1 was adopted.
- SB 959 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 959 passed with IE [RC 84: 23 yes, 14 no].

SB 960 (Switalski)

Senate Bill 960 would amend the Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act to implement a portion of the FY 2005-06 Leadership Agreement on the budget. That Agreement included the appropriation of \$15 million from the Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) Fund to pay a portion of the debt service obligation of the State Building Authority for bonds issued to finance the Michigan Public Safety Communications System. The bill would provide for this distribution from the Fund.

- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- SB 960 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 960 passed with IE [RC 83: 33 yes, 4 no].

HB 4606 (Adamini)

House Bill 4606 would amend the Public Health Code to require a health facility's or agency's policy describing patient or resident rights and responsibilities to include references to the Medical Records Access Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Currently, the Public Health Code precludes the release of medical records without the patient's prior authorization. Reportedly, this requirement can be cumbersome for health care providers, especially in rural areas where specialists and medical centers serve a large geographic area and patients must travel long distances to their appointments. By allowing the release of records as provided by HIPAA, the bill would maintain privacy protections while enabling a patient's various health care providers to transmit records quickly via electronic means. The facilitation of information-sharing among all the providers involved with the patient's care would result in more efficient treatment.

- HB 4606 was moved to 3rd Reading [no amendments].
- HB 4606 passed with IE [RC 77: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 5498 (Kolb)

House Bill 5498 would amend the Horse Racing Law of 1995 to transfer \$2.0 million from the Michigan Agriculture Equine Industry Development Fund to the General Fund for fiscal year (FY) 2005-06 only.

- HB 5498 was moved to 3rd Reading [no amendments].
- HB 5498 passed with IE [RC 82: 21 yes, 16 no].

RESOLUTIONS

SR 72 (Jacobs)

Resolution to memorialize Congress & the US Dept of Health & Human Services to take steps to improve access to fertility preservation options for cancer patients.

• SR 72 was passed [no RC].